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Proposed Plan of The University of Calcutta by Fred. J. Mouat 1845

Sub.:- Education / Universities / Calcutta University - Proposed Plan

Place :- Calcutta

Year :- 1845

PROPOSED PLAN

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA.

THE present advanced state of Education in the Bengal Presidency, with the large and annually increasing number of highly educated pupils, both in public and private institutions, renders it not only expedient and advisable, but a matter of strict justice and necessity, to confer upon them some mark of distinction, by which they may be recognized as persons of liberal education and enlightened minds, capable, from the literary and scientific training they have undergone, of entering at once upon the active duties of life; of commencing the practical pursuit of the learned professions, including in this description the business of instructing the rising generation; of holding the higher offices under Government open to natives, after due official qualification; or of taking the rank in society accorded in Europe to all members and graduates of the Universities.

The only means of accomplishing this great object is by the establishment of a central University, armed with the power of granting degrees in Arts, Science, Law, Medicine, and Civil Engineering, incorporated by a special Act of the Legislative Council of India, and endowed with the privileges enjoyed by all Chartered Universities in Great Britain and Ireland.

After carefully studying the laws and constitution of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, with those of the recently established University of London, the latter alone appears adapted to the wants of the native community.

This University was incorporated by Royal Charter, dated the 5th of December, in the first year of the reign of Queen Victoria, under writ Privy Seal, constituting the persons named, a Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Fellows, one body politic and corporate by the name of the "*University of London.*" In this charter are defined the mode of appointing and electing the officers

above mentioned, their constituting the Senate of the University, with the power of granting degrees in Arts, Science, Medicine, &c.

Upon a similar plan, and for the same objects, it is proposed, that the University of Calcutta shall consist of a Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Fellows, as follows:—

CHANCELLOR AND VISITOR.*

The Governor General of India.

VICE-CHANCELLOR.

The President of the Council of Education.

FELLOWS.

LAW FACULTY.	The Judges of the Supreme Court. The Judges of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut. The Advocate General. The Registrar of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut. The Remembrancer of Legal Affairs.
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND CIVIL ENGINEERING.	The Chief Engineer. The Superintendent of Government Machinery. The Secretary to the Military Board. The Civil Architect.
FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.	The Physician General. The Inspector General of H. M. Hospitals. The Surgeon to the General Hospital. The Secretary to the Medical Board. The Apothecary General.

* During the absence of the Governor-General, the functions of Chancellor and Visitor to devolve on the Deputy Governor of Bengal.

FACULTY OF ARTS, AND FOR GENERAL CONTROL AND SUPERINTENDENCE.

The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.
The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
The Council of Education.
The Secretary to the College of Fort William.

The above to form the body politic and corporate to be styled the "University of Calcutta," to constitute the Senate for its government, to be armed with the legal powers accorded to all such bodies by Royal Charter in Great Britain, and to frame bye-laws and regulations for the granting of degrees* and diplomas.

The powers and authority of the Chancellor and Visitor to be such as pertain to those offices in Europe.

The Vice-Chancellor and Fellows to have the entire management of, and superintendence over, the affairs, concerns and property of the University, for framing bye-laws and regulations for degrees—granting the same—convening meetings—and "in general touching all other matters whatsoever regarding the said University."

Six members to form a meeting for the decision of all questions relating to the University; all such questions to be decided by the majority of members present, the Chairman having a vote, and in case of an equality, a second or casting vote. In the absence of the Vice-Chancellor, a Chairman to be chosen by the members present.

An examination of candidates for degrees in all departments to be held at least once a year, and conducted either by examiners appointed from among the Senate, or by any others specially nominated by that body.

The benefits of these examinations to be extended to ALL institutions, whether Government or private, approved of by the Senate, provided the candidates from such institutions conform to such regulations as may be enacted, respecting the course, extent,

* As degrees are unknown here, it will be expedient to describe them in the Act together with the privileges attached to them.

and duration of study, with the certificates that will be required, authority being granted for the issue of the same.

A regulated scale of fees, to be determined hereafter, for degrees and diplomas, to form a Fee Fund for the payment of the expenses of the University, of which an account is to be furnished annually to the Financial Department of the Government of India.

The names of all candidates receiving degrees and diplomas, to be published annually in the *Government Gazette*, as well as in the reports of the Education Department.

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS.

Matriculation Examination.

All pupils intending to be candidates for degrees or diplomas in Arts and Science, Law, Civil Engineering, or Medicine and Surgery, shall pass a matriculation examination of which the standard shall be the present *Junior Scholarship* standard of the Council of Education; except in the case of pupils from the Martinière, Parental Academy, and similar Institutions, for whom translations from and into Latin and Greek, if the candidates prefer them, shall be substituted for vernacular translations.

No candidate shall be allowed to matriculate until he has completed his 15th year.

Every candidate shall pay a matriculation fee of five rupees prior to the examination, which shall be returned to him if he should be rejected.

Arts and Science.

Shall consist of a Bachelor's and Master's degree, with a special examination for Honors, of those who may have passed.

Course of study, subjects of examination, fees, and other details to be arranged hereafter by the Senate, should the University be established and incorporated.

Law.

Likewise to consist of two grades, with an examination for Honors; and graduates to be legally entitled to practise at the Bar of the Supreme or Sudder Courts, to act as Attorneys, and Vakeels, to be considered qualified for the appointment of Moonsiff, Sudder Ameen, &c., and to form a distinct legal profession for the Indian Empire.

Detailed regulations to be determined by the Judges and other Legal Members of the Senate.

Civil Engineering.

One Examination and Degree.

The course of study, qualifications, nature and extent of examination, &c., to be decided by the Engineer Members of the Senate, so as to raise up ultimately an indigenous class of Engineers in the Government Service, as well as Native Architects, Builders, and Surveyors, &c.

Medicine and Surgery.

Two examinations, one for the degree of Graduate in Medicine; the other for a diploma in Surgery, together with a special examination for Honors. Details to be arranged by the Medical Members of the Senate, in communication with the Council of the Medical College.

The above is a rough outline of a plan, the carrying out of which would form one of the most important eras in the histo[illegible] of

Education in India. It would open the paths of honor and distinction alike to every class and every institution; would encourage a high standard of qualification throughout the Presidency, by bestowing justly earned rewards upon those who had spent years in the acquisition of knowledge, and render their literary honors a source of emolument as well as of social distinction. It would remove most of the objections urged against the existing system of examination of candidates for public employment, without lowering the standard of information required; and would in a very few years produce a body of native public servants superior in character, attainments and efficiency to any of their predecessors. It would encourage the cultivation of the Arts and Sciences, and call into existence a class of Native Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and educated landholders, whose influence would rapidly and certainly diffuse a taste for the more refined and intellectual pleasures and pursuits of the West, to the gradual extinction of the enervating and degrading superstitions of the East. Increased facilities of intercourse by means of railroads, with the interior of the country, the North-Western Provinces, and with Europe, would cause these influences to radiate from the centre of civilization, with a velocity and effect heretofore unknown in India, and, in fact, would be attended with all the advantages that have been recorded in history to have followed a judicious, enlightened, extended, and sound system of education, encouraged by suitable rewards and distinctions.

The adoption of the plan would only be attended with a very trifling expense to Government in the commencement, for in the course of a few years the proceeds of the *Fee Fund* would be more than sufficient to defray every expense attendant upon the University.

It would raise the character and importance of the whole Education Department in public estimation, and ultimately place the educated natives of this great Empire upon a level with those of the Western world.

That the time for such a measure has arrived is fully proved by the standard of excellence attained in the senior scholarship

examinations of the Council of Education,* and the creditable skill and proficiency exhibited by the graduates of the Medical College, whose examinations in extent and difficulty are much greater than those of any of the Colleges of *Surgeons* in Great Britain, and in a purely professional point of view, nearly on a par with those required from the Medical graduates of most British Universities.

FRED. J. MOUAT, M. D.,

Secretary.

COUNCIL OF EDUCATION;
October 25, 1845.

* Fully equal in extent to the Bachelor's examination of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin; and much more so than that of the *Bachelier-ès-Lettres* of the Sorbonne in Paris.

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